

## Prevent A Home Heating Fire

This brochure will tell you how to prevent a fire in your home if you use a: fireplace, kerosene heater, electric heater, or wood stove for heat .

### Who is at risk of dying in home heating fires?

- Each month in the U.S., 60 people die from home heating fires. Someone is hurt by a fire every 30 minutes, and someone is killed every 2 1/2 hours.
- Home heating stoves and heaters cause more than 20,000 fires a year.
- It is easy for young children to get bad burns in a home heating fire. They need to be watched around heaters.
- Homes with smoke alarms that work have a much better chance of escaping from a fire.



A house fire that was started by a heater. People died in the fire.

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## Staying Safe

## How To Prevent A Fire When Heating Your Home



Suffolk County  
Department of Health Services

Suffolk County Department of  
Fire Rescue & Emergency  
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## What can I do to stay safe when heating my home?

- Keep young children away from stoves, heaters, and fireplaces.
- Follow the directions for putting in stoves and heaters, and for taking care of stoves and heaters.
- Keep everything at least 3 feet away from your stove or heater. Do not put anything that can burn on top of any heater.
- Do NOT run a stove, heater, or fireplace at the same time there are vapors in the area (from things like paint, paint thinner, etc). This can cause a fire.
- Be sure to have a working carbon monoxide detector in your home, and use it!
- Have smoke alarms **that work** on every floor of the house (be sure to have one in the cellar also). Have them near rooms where people sleep. Test them each month to be sure they work. Be sure they have working batteries in them. Practice a family escape plan!
- Do not use an oven to heat your home!



### Electric Space Heaters

- Only buy heaters with the certified safety listing.
- Check to be sure the heater has a thermostat, and that it will turn off by itself if the heater falls over.
- Do NOT use an extension cord with the heater
- Always unplug the heater when you are not using it, or when you go to sleep.



### Kerosene Heaters

- Only buy approved heaters.
- Do NOT fill the heater with gasoline or camp stove fuel – both of these catch fire easily. Only fill it outside and when it is cool.
- Use only 'crystal clear K-I kerosene'.
- Never overfill any heater.
- Only use the heater in a room that has good air flow and is well ventilated. Do not put it in a closed space.



### Wood Stoves

- Use only seasoned wood for fuel. Do not use fake logs or trash.
- Inspect and clean pipes and chimneys each year.
- Do not use gasoline or other liquids to start the fire.
- Check each month for damage or obstructions.
- Burn the stove hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to lessen the amount of creosote.



### Fireplaces

- Do NOT wear loose-fitting clothes near any open flame, they can catch on fire. Be sure the fire is ALL out before leaving the house or going to sleep.
- Fireplaces build up a sticky tar in the chimney called 'creosote', and need to be cleaned out often.
- Do NOT burn trash or paper.
- Chimneys should be looked at for blockages and cracks. This can prevent deadly chimney and roof fires.
- Be sure there is a working damper, and that it is open before starting a fire.
- Use a screen that is heavy enough to stop logs from rolling out, and big enough to cover the entire opening of the fireplace (to catch flying sparks).
- Keep cooled ashes in a tightly sealed metal container outside the house.